

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1063

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E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJECT: NOVA SCOTIA NURSES' STRIKE

REF: HALIFAX TEL 209

1. FOLLOWING SLOW-DOWN IN EFFORTS TO PASS LEGISLATION TO FORCE STRIKING NOVA SCOTIA NURSES TO ACCEPT COMPULSORY ARBITRATION, NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT MADE NEW COUNTER-OFFER TO NURSES INCREASING AMOUNT FROM 29 PERCENT PLUS INCREMENTS OVER TWO YEARS TO 37.5 PERCENT (INCLUDING INCREMENTS). NURSES IN MEANTIME LOWERED THEIR DEMANDS FROM 54 PERCENT TO 43 PERCENT.

2. ON JUNE 19 NURSES IN FOUR HALIFAX HOSPITALS AND EIGHT CAPE BRETON HOSPITALS VOTED ON GOVERNMENT OFFER. HALIFAX NURSES VOTED TO ACCEPT OFFER BY VOTE OF 234 TO 105 WHILE CAPE BRETON NURSES REJECTED OFFER BY 392 TO 1. HALIFAX NURSES RETURNED TO WORK ON JUNE 20. CAPE BRETON NURSES CONTINUED TO STRIKE AND MAINTAIN PICKET LINES OVER WEEKEND.

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EM DURING COURSE OF WEEKEND OF JUNE 21-22, PREMIER

REGAN BY CHANCE IN SYDNEY, CAPE BRETON AND INTER-VIEWED BY LOCAL RADIO STATION FOR NEARLY AN HOUR. HE REBUKED NURSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING EXAMPLE OF HALIFAX NURSES AND POINTED OUT PROBLEMS PROVINCE HAD IN FINANCING THEIR WAGE DEMANDS.

4. ON JUNE 24 CAPE BRETON NURSES RECONSIDERED THEIR REJECTION OF GOVERNMENT OFFER AND DECIDED TO RETURN TO WORK ON JUNE 25. ACCORDING TO HEAD OF NOVA SCOTIA NURSES STAFF ASSOCIATION, MRS THERESA MURPHY, (WHO IS IN SYDNEY), VOTE ON JUNE 24 WAS ON WHETHER TO RETURN TO WORK AND DID NOT INVOLVE ACCEPTANCE OF GOVERNMENT'S 37.5 PERCENT WAGE OFFER. MRS MURPHY HAS "ADMITTED" THE GOVERNMENT'S FINAL OFFER WAS "NOT BAD" SO IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE CAPE BRETON NURSES TOO WILL ACCEPT IT. MANBEY

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